

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to include a feature described at page 6, lines 13-16 of the specification as filed.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,548,552 (US '552) in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,313,178 (US '178). The Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention. Specifically, claims 1 and 4 have been amended to include the effective amounts of the antimicrobial compound. It is respectfully submitted that US '552 and US '178 fail to teach the use of tetrahydroiso-alpha acids or hexahydro-beta acids at the recited concentration levels of the amended claims.

The Office Action acknowledges that US '552 does not teach the tetrahydroiso-alpha acids and hexahydro-beta acids used in the claimed invention. While US '178 teaches the use of such compounds to inhibit *Staphylococcus aureus*, it does not suggest effective concentrations for the claimed method and product, particularly in the acidic environment of the liquids (i.e., urine) in a diaper. (See the attached excerpt from Stedman's Medical Dictionary describing the slightly acidic nature of urine.) It is further noted that the Applicant presented data on the activity of tetrahydroiso-alpha acids and hexahydro-beta acids in acidic environments in the Examples in the specification.

Thus, it is submitted that all of the features of amended independent claim 1 (and claims 2-3 that depend thereon) and amended independent claim 4 are not shown or suggested in US '552 and US '178.

Conclusion

Therefore, it is submitted that amended claims 1 and 4, and claims 2-3 that depend thereon, are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be needed for this amendment. However, if additional fees are needed, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



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By: _____

Richard T. Roche
Registration No. 38,599
Quarles and Brady LLP
411 East Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 277-5805

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